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February 2, 2022

Admiral Michelle Howard, Retired
Chair
The Naming Commission

Brigadier General Ty Seidule, Retired
Vice-Chair
The Naming Commission

Dear Chair Howard and Vice-Chair Seidule:

I write to respectfully request that the Naming Commission consider recommending that Fort Benning in Georgia, or another appropriate military installation, be renamed after the late Army Sergeant First Class Alwyn Cashe. SFC Cashe posthumously received the Medal of Honor on December 16, 2021, for actions taken in Iraq on October 17, 2005.¹ SFC Cashe served as a drill sergeant, and later as a platoon sergeant in the 3rd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, at Fort Benning.²

As you know, Section 370 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (P.L. 116-283, enacted January 1, 2021) required the Secretary of Defense to establish an eight-member bipartisan commission to develop a plan to rename certain Department of Defense assets. The commission must provide a written report to Congress, setting forth this plan, by October 1, 2022. The Secretary of Defense must implement the plan by January 1, 2024.

The now-constituted commission—known as the Naming Commission—has indicated that at least nine Army installations, including Fort Benning, are being considered for renaming.³ The Commission has further indicated that the new names of renamed installations “should

¹ SFC Cashe’s Medal of Honor citation is available [here](#). SFC Cashe was the seventh servicemember to receive the Medal of Honor for service in Iraq, and the first African American to receive the Medal of Honor in a post-Vietnam conflict.

² See <https://www.army.mil/medalofhonor/cashe/>. According to SFC Cashe’s family, SFC Cashe purchased a home in Columbus, Georgia prior to his final deployment to Iraq, and intended to reside there upon his return. SFC Cashe’s widow Tamara and his daughter Alexis currently reside in that home.

³ See <https://www.thenamingcommission.gov/faqs>.

appropriately reflect the courage, values and sacrifices of our diverse military men and women, with consideration given to the local or regional significance of names and their potential to inspire and motivate our service members.” According to the Commission, it has “engaged with local community stakeholders whenever possible to ensure their voices carry weight in the process,” as required by Section 370. Last year, the Commission solicited name recommendations from the general public, receiving over 34,000 submissions.⁴ I understand from public reporting that SFC Cashe’s name was submitted through this process.⁵

I believe that renaming Fort Benning as Fort Cashe would fulfill the policy objectives Congress sought to advance through Section 370, would “appropriately reflect the courage, values and sacrifices” of the U.S. military, would be positively received by local stakeholders given SFC Cashe’s meaningful connection to the Fort Benning community, and would serve to “inspire and motivate our service members.” SFC Cashe is a legend in military circles, beloved in life and revered in death, a hero in the purest sense of the term. I believe he would be an honorable and unifying choice, and hope you will consider recommending him in your report to Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Stephanie', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Stephanie Murphy
Member of Congress

cc: Members, The Naming Commission

⁴ See <https://www.thenamingcommission.gov/recommend-a-name>.

⁵ See [here](#).